IV. *Dr.* Molineux's *Hiſtorical Account of the late General Coughs and Colds; with ſome Obſervations on other Epidemick Diſtempers.*

AMong the many ſecret workings of Nature, none ſeems more to deſerve our Obſervation, than the riſe and progreſs of Epidemick Diſtempers: Since Health, one of our chiefeſt Goods, is ſo nearly concerned, as to engage us in the Enquiry, and the Intricacy of the Subject may naturally ſtir up our Curioſity to the utmoſt proſecution of it.

The Coughs and Colds that lately ſo univerſally prevailed, give us a moſt extraordinary Inſtance, how liable at certain times our Bodies are, however differing in Conſtitution, Age, and way of Living, to be affected much in the ſame manner by a ſpreading Evil.

The moſt Inſtructive and Uſeful Account that can be given of ſuch a Diſtemper, I take to be the ſetting down all the particular Accidents, or Matter of Fact, that occurr'd in obſerving the way and courſe of its affecting Mens Bodies, rather than to raiſe wild and fruitleſs Speculations in Reaſoning about it, which being Conjectures in all likelihood muſt fall ſhort of the truth, and if ſo, muſt neceſſarily lead us into Error, rather than any way help us in proſecuting our Enquiry.

I ſhall therefore confine my ſelf in the following Hiſtory as cloſe as I can to ſtrict Matter of Fact, paſſing by all Hypotheſes, and ſhall ſet down nothing that was not confirm'd to me by wary and repeated Obſervation.

'Twas about the beginning of *November* laſt, 1693. after a conſtant courſe of moderately warm Weather for the Seaſon, upon ſome Snow falling in the Mountains and Country about the Town, that of a ſudden it

grew extreamly cold, and ſoon after ſucceeded ſome few days of very hard Froſt, whereupon Rheums of all kinds, ſuch as violent Coughs that chiefly affected in the Night, great defluxion of thin Rheum at the Noſe and Eyes, immoderate diſcharge of the *Saliva* by ſpitting, hoarſeneſs in the Voice, ſore Throats, with ſome trouble in ſwallowing, wheſings, ſtuffings, and ſoreneſs in the Breaſt, a dull heavineſs and ſtoppage in the Head, with ſuch like Diſorders, the uſual Effects of Cold, ſeized great Numbers of all ſorts of People in *Dublin.*

Some were more violently affected, ſo as to be confined a while to their Beds, thoſe complained of Feveriſh Symptoms, as ſhiverings and chilneſs all over them, that made ſeveral returns, pains in many parts of their Body, ſevere Head-aches, chiefly about their Foreheads, ſo as any Noiſe was very troubleſome; great weakneſs in their Eyes, that the leaſt Light was offenſive; a perfect decay of all Appetite, foul turbid Urine, with a Brick-colour'd Sediment at the bottom; great uneaſineſs and toſſing in their Beds all Night: Yet theſe Diſorders, though they much frightned both the Sick and their Friends, uſually without help of Remedy would abate of themſelves, and terminate in univerſal Sweats, that conſtantly relieved.

This more violent degree of the Cold was more apt I found to fall on ſuch as were given to Exceſs either in Eating or Drinking, or inclinable to a Scrophulous Diſpoſition of Body, than on thoſe that were more temperate, and leſs ſubject to Obſtructions.

When the Cold was but moderate, it uſually was over in Eight or Ten Days, but with thoſe in whom it roſe to a greater height, it continued a Fortnight, three Weeks, and ſometimes above a Month, one way or other it univerſally affected all kinds of Men; thoſe in the Country, as well as City; thoſe that were much abroad in the open Air, and thoſe that ſtay'd much within Doors,

Doors, or even kept cloſe in their Chambers; thoſe that were robuſt and hardy, as well as thoſe that were weakly and tender; Men, Women, and Children of all Ranks and Conditions, the youngeſt and the oldeſt; though I think if it were favourable to any ſort, it moſt ſpared thoſe that were very aged, among whom I knew ſeveral that were not the leaſt troubled with it, yet it ſeized ſo univerſally, that not one in Thirty, perhaps I might ſafely ſay more, eſcaped it.

As it firſt appeared towards the beginning of *November*, ſo it ſeemed to arrive to its greateſt degree of violence, and ſpread moſt univerſally about the middle of it; and by the beginning of the Month following it very ſenſibly abated, ſo that very few then complained of their Colds; and 'twas eaſie to obſerve on the Third of *December*, being Sunday, few were heard Coughing in the Churches, whereas a Fortnight before the noiſe of Coughing in every Congregation was very troubleſome, and never out of ones Ears.

So that in the ſpace of four or five Weeks it had its riſe, growth, and decay; and though from firſt to laſt it ſeized ſuch incredible Numbers of all ſorts of Men, I cannot learn that any one truly dyed of it, unleſs ſuch whoſe ſtrength was before ſpent by ſome tedious Fit of Sickneſs, or labour'd under ſome heavier Diſeaſe complicated with it.

I find that about *November* and *December* 1691. by ſome ſhort Notes I took then, Coughs were more than ordinary frequent here in *Dublin*, though nothing comparable to what they were lately; they chiefly then affected Young Children, whoſe Coughs uſually turn'd to a violent Chin-Cough: Yet at this time among all the variety of Coughing Children, I have not met with more than one, that was troubled with a Chin-Cough, and that too was but in a ſlight manner: Which Minute differences in the ways of Epidemick Diſtempers ope-

rating in our Bodies, clearly ſhew that their Cauſes cannot be aſcribed only to the ſenſible alterations of the Weather, or the manifeſt qualities of Heat, Cold, Moiſture, or Dryneſs highly predominant in the Air, according to the Vulgar Solution of them, but that they proceed from ſomething more nice and latent than all this.

But to return to our general Cold, it was not only Remarkable for the great Numbers it affected in this Kingdom, but likewiſe for its vaſt extent elſewhere, ſpreading it ſelf all over *England* in the ſame manner it did here, particularly it ſeized them at *London* and *Oxford* as univerſally, and with the ſame Symptoms as it ſeized us in *Dublin*; but with this obſervable difference, that it appeared three or four Weeks ſooner in *London*, that is, about the beginning of *October*, than it did in *Dublin*, where 'twas not the leaſt taken notice of till about the beginning of *November*, as I before mentioned.

Nor was its Progreſs, as I am credibly informed, bounded by theſe Iſlands, for it ſpread it ſelf ſtill further, and reached the Continent, where it infeſted the Northern Parts of *France*, as about *Paris*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, and the reſt of the *United Provinces*, with more violence, and no leſs frequency than it did in theſe Countries; ſo that for its being ſo general in affecting ſuch great Numbers in proportion to the few that eſcaped it, and taking up ſo vaſt a ſcope in its extent, I believe no Epidemick Diſtemper can compare with it; Peſtilential Fevers and the Plague are commonly the moſt ſpreading Diſeaſes, yet we find by their Hiſtories the Infection of 'em uſually limited within much narrower compaſs than this had, as if the ſame Providence had put Bounds to the raging of theſe deadly Diſtempers, as it has done to the Sea; for were they as univerſal and diffuſive of themſelves as theſe ſlighter Diſeaſes are, they would entirely

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diſpeople whole Kingdoms, and ſoon leave the World waſte and deſtitute of Mankind.

No Example of any Epidemick Diſtemper ſeems in all reſpects to come nearer in competition with our late general Cold, than the tranſient Fever, that ſo ſtrangely in the Year 1688 prevailed in theſe Countries, which I look upon to have been the moſt univerſal Fever, as this the moſt univerſal Cold, that perhaps has ever appeared; ſo that it will not be improper to inſert here the Hiſtory in ſhort of that Remarkable Diſtemper.

About the beginning of *July* 1688. this ſhort ſort of Fever was firſt obſerved to appear here in *Dublin*, it ſo univerſally ſeized all ſorts of Men whatever, that I then made an eſtimate not above one in fifteen eſcaped. It began, as generally Fevers do, with a chilneſs and ſhivering all over, like that of an Ague, but not ſo violent, which ſoon broke out into a dry burning Heat, with great uneaſineſs that commonly confin'd them to their Beds, where they paſſed the enſuing Night very reſtleſs; they complain'd likewiſe of Giddineſs, and a dull pain in their Heads, chiefly about their Eyes, with unſettled pains in their Limbs, and about the ſmall of their Back, a ſoreneſs all over their Fleſh, a loſs of Appetite, with a *Nauſea* or aptneſs to Vomit, an unuſual ill taſt in their Mouths, yet little or no Thirſt: And tho' theſe Symptoms were very violent for a time, yet they did not continue long, for about the ſecond day of the Diſtemper the Patient uſually of himſelf fell into a Sweat, (unleſs 'twas prevented by letting Blood, which however beneficial in other Fevers, I found manifeſtly retarded the Progreſs of this) and if the Sweat was encouraged for five or ſix hours by laying on more Cloaths, or taking ſome Sudorifick Medicine, moſt of the Diſorders before mentioned would entirely diſappear, or at leaſt very much abate.

The Giddineſs of their Head, and want of Appetite would often continue ſome days afterwards, but with the

the uſe of the open freſh Air they certainly in four or five days at fartheſt recover'd theſe likewiſe, and were perfectly well; ſo tranſient and favourable was this Diſeaſe, that it ſeldom required the help of a Phyſician; and of a Thouſand that were ſeized with it, I believe ſcarce one dyed; by the middle of *Auguſt* following it wholly diſappeared, ſo that it had run its full Courſe through all ſorts of People in ſeven Weeks time.

Twas very Remarkable that in *England* as well as this Kingdom, a ſhort time before this General Fever, a ſlight Diſeaſe, but very univerſal, ſeized the Horſes too: In them it ſhewed it ſelf by a great defluxion of Rheum from their Noſes; and I was aſſured by a Judicious Man, an Officer in the Army of *Ireland* which was then drawn out, and encamp'd on the *Curragh* of *Kildare*, there were not Ten Horſes in a Regiment that had not this diſorder; which ſhews the cauſe of ſpreading Diſtempers to be ſo prevalent, that it works not only on the finer and more delicate Compoſition of Humane Bodies, but affects even the more ſtrong and groſs frame of one of the moſt robuſt Animal Productions in Nature; but this by the by.

This Fever as we were ſpeaking of, as our late Colds, ſpread it ſelf all over *England*; whether it extended farther I did not learn, but it raged as generally in *London*, as I was informed by a learned Phyſician from thence, as it did with us here in *Dublin*, and with the ſame concourſe of Symptoms, but with ſome difference of time in relation to its firſt appearance; for whereas they began to take notice of it at *London* about the middle of *May*, and it continued there till about the latter end of *June*; it did not ſhew it ſelf here in *Dublin* till the beginning of *July*, after it had wholly diſappeared in *London*. So likewiſe our late general Colds, as I before mentioned, were obſerved to keep ſuch a ſort of Regular Precedence of Time, as to their riſe and fall at *London*,

in reſpect of *Dublin*: Whence one may reaſonably gather, that theſe ſpreading Epidemick Diſtempers take their Progreſs from Eaſt to Weſt. But this ſhould be further confirmed by more frequent Obſervations before one may ſafely determine any thing in this matter; however, that it held true in the two foregoing Inſtances is certain; and 'tis not leſs certain that the Plague and Peſtilential Fevers rage more frequently in the Eaſt towards *Conſtantinople* and the *Levant*, than in theſe more Weſtern Parts of *Europe*, as if that ſeemed a more Natural Clime for their riſe and propagation; whence the ſeveral Eſtates of *Italy* ſo uſually impoſe on Ships coming from all Parts of *Turkey* into their Ports the ſtrict obſerving a *Quarantine*, before they Land either their Paſſengers, or their Goods.

And this might lead us to Diſcourſe ſomething concerning the cauſe of theſe ſort of ſpreading Diſtempers: But till we have a better ſtock of more accurate Hiſtories of them, and be further acquainted with their Nature and Progreſs, I do not think it ſo proper to the Deſign of thoſe that candidly proſecute Philoſophical Enquiries to determine any thing as yet in this Point.

T. M.

V. *Of a Stone found in the Gall-Bladder of a Woman. By Mr.* J. T.

AFter throwing up the *Sternon*, and inſpecting the Parts contained in the Cavity of the Breaſt, I found the Lobes of the Lungs extreamly turgid, and its Veſicles impleat with a grumous Blood, their inveſting Membrane in the upper part adhered ſimly to the *Pleura*: The right Ventricle of the Heart was filled with a large quantity of coagulated Blood, but the left ſeemed exſanguious: